

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 081636 ACTION BUENOS AIRES,
INFO BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO 22 APRIL 1974. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, GAH, BR, EAGR

SUBJECT:EBERLE VISIT TO BRAZIL: COFFEE AND COCOA

REF: (A) LIMA 3114; (B) BRASILIA 2688

1. BELIEVE PREVIOUSLY PREPARED BRIEFING BOOK GUIDANCE IS ADEQUATE TO RESPOND TO BRAZILIAN CONCERNS ON COFFEE. BRAZILIAN INITIATIVES IN ESTABLISHING PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO) WERE A MAJOR FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE INABILITY OF THE 1972/73 NEGOTIATIONS TO AGREE ON CONTINUATION OF THE AGREEMENT'S OPERATIVE PROVISIONS AND ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANY EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A NEW ICA. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH EFFORTS TO RESTRICT SUPPLIES AND OTHERWISE INFLUENCE THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE MARKET UNILATERALLY HAVE HAD APPRECIABLE IMPACT ON SUPPLY. GOB, PARTICULARLY SINCE NEW COFFEE TEAM ONLY RECENTLY ON BOARD, HAS NOT MADE CLEAR ITS INTENTIONS REGARDING NEW ICA. THUS FAR BRAZIL HAS MADE AMBIVALENT COMMENTS REGARDING ICA RENEGOTIATION, AND PRO-

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DUCER COOPERATION OUTSIDE ICA.

2. THE GOB IS ADEQUATELY INFORMED CONCERNING OUR RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT. OUR POSITION ON THE COCOA AGREEMENT, IS AFTER A CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF ALL THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION, THAT THE ECONOMIC DEFICIENCIES OF THE AGREEMENT OUTWEIGH

THE POLITICAL BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP. THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE 16 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED UP TO THE 1972 COCOA AGREEMENT AND, ALTHOUGH NOT A MEMBER, HAS OFFERED TO SUPPLY COCOA STATISTICAL INFORMATION TO THE ICO. WE RECENTLY WERE INVITED TO SIT IN ON MEETINGS OF THE ICA STATISTICAL COMMITTEE AS AN OBSERVER. ALTHOUGH AFRICANS, SPECIFICALLY GHANA, TOOK LEADERSHIP ROLE, BRAZIL WAS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN NEGOTIATION OF THE ICA. SINCE COCOA IS OF RELATIVELY MINOR IMPORTANCE TO BRAZIL AND COCOA PRICES ARE AT RECORD HIGH LEVELS, WE BELIEVE BRAZILIANS ARE LIKELY RAISE AGREEMENT ONLY IN PRO FORMA WAY IF AT ALL.

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